



## Strategies to Promote Gender Equity In the Classroom

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- Place female students in leadership roles as often as male students.
- Allow wait time for student responses (5-10 seconds). Female students often need time to contemplate before responding.
- Avoid putting female students in the role of modifying the behavior of (sometimes aggressive or unfocused) male students.
- Call on males and females equally.
- Intervene when females defer to males and males allow them to.
- Ask difficult and thought provoking questions to both male and female students.
- Monitor cooperative learning activities to ensure all students have a role and participate equally.
- Use a variety of instructional practices to engage ALL students including: cooperative and competitive activities, group work and lecture, hands-on learning and theoretical information, and the use of verbal and spatial skills.
- Use gender fair and equitable language.
- Use curricula and learning materials that are gender fair — those in which females are equally present and represented in positive roles.
- Promote “nontraditional” career options to both genders.
- Encourage females to take upper level math, science, computer and technology related classes.

Source: *Gender Equity Lesson Plans and Teacher Guide for High Schools*, ©1999. “Springfield Technical Community College reserves all rights to materials produced through the Western Massachusetts Gender Equity Center. These materials are not for sale or resale.”